XII. *A Letter from Dr.* Donald Monro, *F. R. S. to* Mathew Maty, *M. D. Sec. R. S. incloſing one from Mr.* Farley, *of* Antigua, *on the good Effects of the Quaſſi Root in ſome Fevers.*

SIR,

Read March 17, 1768. AS we have had no further accounts of the Quaſſi Root, ſince Dr. Linnæus publiſhed the ſixth volume of his *Amœnitates Academicæ* * in the year 1764, I have, according to your deſire, ſent you the copy of a letter on the good effects of this root, which I hope will be acceptable to the Society, as it may excite Phyſicians to make trials of this medicine which ſeems to promiſe to be of ſo much uſe. The original letter was given me by the gentleman to whom it is addreſſed, while I attended him laſt year when he was here in England for the benefit of his health. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Jermyn-Street, March 8, 1768. D. Monro.

* Dr. Carol. Linnæus gives a particular deſcription and figure of the Quaſſi tree, which grows in the neighbourhood of Surinam, in South America, and of the Root having been adminiſtred at Surinam, with great ſucceſs, in malignant, remitting and intermitting fevers: and he tells us that its virtues were firſt diſcovered by a ſlave of the name of Quaſſi, from whom the tree got its name.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. James Farley, *Practitioner in Phyſick in the Iſland of* Antigua, *to his Partner, Mr.* Arch. Gloſter, *in* London; *dated* Antigua, July 26, 1767.

SIR,

MR. T—r has been extremely ill ſince his arrival with a fever, which laſted for many hours; and, upon its going off, he could not retain the bark in any ſhape whatever. Many things were tried to check the vomiting, and enable him to keep down ſome bark, but to no purpoſe. At laſt I tryed the Quaſſi Root, an account of which I read in one of the magazines for this year; it ſat extremely well on his ſtomach; he had no vomiting after the firſt doſe, and recovered very ſpeedily.

I have lately tried it in three or four caſes, where there has been a tendency to putrefaction and the bark would not ſtay on the ſtomach; a dram of this root, has effectually anſwered every purpoſe that the bark would. It has this advantage over the bark, that it does not heat the patient.

I have given it in fevers, joined with the Radix Serpentariæ Virginianæ, with ſucceſs. I had a pound or two from Eſquebo, and have ſent you a little of it.

Dr. Warner has ſent Dr. Jackſon a piece of it; he ſaw the good effects of this medicine, in a patient, Captain B—n, who ſails for London to-day. He attended him with me. I could not get the bark to ſit

on his ſtomach, for he had a perpetual vomiting, and could not keep down any nouriſhment whatever. I prepared a decoction of a dram and a half of the Quaſſi Root, and a dram of the Rad. Serpent. Virgin. When it was ready, I ſent for Dr. Warner, that he might ſee the patient before I adminiſtred it; he complained of ſome pain on touching the pit of his ſtomach, had a very ſluggiſh low pulſe, a great pain over his eyes and in his eye balls, and vomitings. He took the decoction, which ſurprizingly put a ſtop to his vomiting; he had no return after the firſt doſe, and kept down every thing. We indeed gave him ſome Camphor and Sal Succini, on account of the ſluggiſhneſs of the pulſe, but I have tried it alone in a decoction, with infinite advantage.

Signed, J. Farley.

Received